

**Safety Commission
Minutes
6/14/99**

Attendees: Tom Baumgartner, Jeff Beiriger, Steve Cupery, Neill DeClercq, Linda Ernsberger, Chris Henderson, John Metcalf, Dave Newby, Judy Norman-Nunnery, Frank Conway, Jean Culbert.

Topics:

Introductions - Judy Norman-Nunnery was introduced to the group as the new Division Administrator for the Worker's Compensation Division. The group, in turn, introduced themselves and described their safety interests. Judy commented on her interest in safety and enthusiasm for promoting workplace safety through educational efforts supported by both labor and management.

Report Card '98 Wrap-Up - Frank Conway reported on the follow-up survey used to evaluate the effectiveness of Report Card '98. In 80% of the cases, the chief executive officer received the report card information. Approximately 50% of the survey respondents were interested in receiving training to improve safety. About 98% of respondents indicated there were no serious problem in the labor-management relations relating to safety issues.

Employer concerns about the Report Card '98 initiative were: 1) small employers feel a few claims have a large effect on their claim rate, making them look "bad;" 2) the SIC code does not accurately represent the type of work employees perform; 3) interested in receiving new educational materials on safety; and 4) questioned accuracy of claims based on general and specific federal identification numbers for divisions of companies.

In conclusion, Frank indicated the Safety Works for Wisconsin Report Card '98 program successfully distributed educational and resource information to employers with high incident rates. Evaluating effectiveness of the program may be determined by surveying employers for changes in safety programs and equipment resulting from the report cards.

Report Card '99 Direction - The Safety Commission indicated a comparison of employers receiving report cards again in the second year would be desirable. Frank Conway, DWD, indicated the methodology for selecting "report card" employers had been refined. A comparison between '98 and '99 would not be very meaningful, but the report card '99 group would now be the base for comparison in future years.

The Commission agreed to proceed with Report Card '99, revise the safety manual "Putting Together a Safe Workplace," and develop a safety calendar for the millennium.

Individual Employer Injury Statistics - Commission members expressed interest in how individual employers were reacting to the report card information. It was suggested the statistical information be more individualized. Due to lack of staff this option was not feasible. The group suggested industry-specific safety pamphlets might be created to help employers. These pamphlets could be enclosed with employer report cards to encourage better safety practices. It was also suggested to do a calling survey of employers to see if they changed their safety programs after receiving the report cards.

Safety Calendar 2000 - Commission members decided the millennium calendar should have a historical theme and highlight the history of worker's compensation in Wisconsin from 1911 through 2000.

Safety Booklet Update - The Commission members reviewed the safety manual "Putting Together a Safe Workplace." A new group of employers will be highlighted from the 1999 Wisconsin Corporate Safety Award winners.

The next meeting will be scheduled in the fall to review the pamphlet and calendar materials.